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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/700,126

11/03/2003

Michael A. Lassner

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EXAMINER

HASSAN, AURANGZEB

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2182

DATE MAILED: 05/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/700,126	Applicant(s) LASSNER, MICHAEL A.	
	Examiner Aurangzeb Hassan	Art Unit 2182	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 February 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-10,12,15-19 and 24-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-10,12,15-19 and 24-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 3-7, 9, 10, 12, 15-19 and 24-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson et al. (US Publication Number 2004/0212651 hereinafter "Johnson") in view of Koether (US Patent Number 5,875,430).

3. As per claims 1, 10, 16, 24 and 27 Johnson teaches a method, system, device, and driver comprising:

identifying with a peripheral device a region code (printer unique identifier, page 1 paragraph [0014]) stored on a component installed within the peripheral device; and

setting a region for the peripheral device to be the region identified by the region code (remote printer management system, element 200 of Figure 4, page 3, paragraph [0039-0041]).

Johnson fails to teach a method, system, device and driver comprising:

the region code identifying a particular geographical region; and

setting a geographical region for the peripheral device to be the geographical region.

Koether analogously teaches a method, system device, and driver comprising; the region code identifying a particular geographical region (geographical cells, element 105, figure 1); and setting a geographical region for the peripheral device to be the geographical region (peripheral geographical region base, element 150, figure 1).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify Johnson with the above teachings of Koether. One of ordinary skill would have been motivated to make such modification in order to provide timely service capabilities virtually anywhere in the world (column 3, lines 50 – 65).

The examiner notes that Johnson teaches a remote management system for which the printer unique identifier, PUI, is used to connect a printer, computing device and web site. The web site maintains and handles the region in which the printer resides. The examiner further notes one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize Koether's teaching to peripherals requiring management, repair, component replacement and servicing extending to analogous systems.

4. As per claim 3 Johnson teaches a method wherein identifying a region code comprises reading a region code embedded within memory of a print cartridge that is installed within the peripheral device (ink jet cartridge, page 3, paragraph [0030]).

5. As per claim 4 Johnson teaches a method wherein setting a geographical region comprises storing the identification region code in device memory of the peripheral device (memory, element 13 of figure 2, page 2, paragraph [0020]).

6. As per claims 5, 17 and 25 Johnson teaches a method, system and device wherein setting a geographical region comprises locking the region code for the peripheral device (page 2, paragraph [0017]) such that only components intended for sale in that geographical region can be used with the peripheral device.

Johnson teaches utilization of a locking feature in a multifaceted approach in regards to component locking that is unit specific.

7. As per claims 6, 15, 18 and 26 Johnson teaches a method, system and device wherein locking the region code comprises determining the number of pages that have been printed by the peripheral device and locking the region code if the number of pages reaches a predetermined threshold (page 3, paragraph [0030]).

Johnson teaches ink level monitoring in order to properly recognize depletion of ink on a number of printed pages and incorporates a locking mechanism.

8. As per claims 7 and 28 Johnson teaches a method and device further comprising providing the region code to a user computer (computing device, element 30 of figure 2, page 3, and paragraphs [0038-0041]).

9. As per claim 8 Johnson teaches a method and system further comprising accessing a database on the user computer that cross-references the region code with components available for use with the peripheral device to identify components that can be presented to a user for purchase (printer component monitor, element 46 of figure 2, paragraphs [0016 & 0025]).

Johnson teaches a comparison of the PUI versus the one stored in database memory of a printer component. The printer component monitor manages the printer components and PUI's don't match the use is limited. Application over a larger region is included through the access of web site through a computing device.

10. As per claims 9, 12 and 19 Johnson teaches a method and system wherein providing the region code comprises providing the region code to a device driver that executes on the user computer and wherein accessing a database comprises accessing the database with the device driver (printer driver, element 104 of figure 2, page 3, paragraph [0032]).

The examiner notes Koether teaches a database (element 190, figure 1) to allow for access to user information (column9, lines 12 – 43, column 10, lines 36 – 44, column11, lines 40 – 46).

Response to Arguments

11. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim s 1, 3-7, 9, 10, 12, 15-19 and 24-28 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The examiner notes US Patent Number 6,584,290 as pertaining to cross-referencing and providing on the end of the peripheral device a full communication of services and products available to the peripheral and is duly cited as pertinent prior art.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

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extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aurangzeb Hassan whose telephone number is (571)272-8625. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Huynh can be reached on (571)272-4147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AH
5/10/2006


KIM HUYNH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

5/14/06